

So You'd Like

to Adopt



A Wild

Horse . . . Or Burro?



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Accepting the responsibility of providing a foster home for a wild horse or burro is a big step. Before you decide to participate in the Adopt-A-Horse Program, you should know as much as possible about what is involved. This brochure answers the most frequently asked questions, and guides you through the adoption application process. Please read all of it before completing the application form.



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1. What kinds of horses and burros are available for adoption?

The most important descriptive word is "wild." These animals are excess wild horses and burros that roam public lands in the West only a short time before they are placed in adoption. They are not accustomed to people, but with kindness, patience, and gentleness can be tamed and trained just as their domestic counterparts. Wild horses and burros are of no particular breed, although some exhibit characteristics generally associated with a specific breed.

Although there is some variation in size from one herd to another, a typical wild horse stands about 14 hands (or 56 inches at its shoulder) and weighs about 900 pounds. For the most part, the horses are solid colors, usually shades of brown or gray.

Burros available for adoption average between 42 and 48 inches in height and weigh about 500 pounds. They are usually dun colored, but some are black or brown.

2. What does it cost to adopt a wild horse or burro?

An adoption fee of \$125 per horse or \$75 per burro is charged at all Bureau of Land Management (BLM) adoption centers. No adoption fee is charged for unweaned foals accompanying their mare or jenny. Orphan foals under the age of 6 months are available infrequently only at adoption centers nearest their capture site and also are adopted at no fee.



The adoption fee partially reimburses BLM's cost of placing an animal in private maintenance (i.e., costs incurred in freeze marking, veterinary services, animal feed and handling, adoption application processing, compliance, and title transfer).

You will be responsible for the cost of transporting the animal to your home from the adoption center, and for all costs involved in its future upkeep, including veterinarian charges. Your cost of transporting the animal would depend on variables such as the distance from the adoption center to your home and the method used. Inquire locally to determine costs for maintaining an animal after adoption in your part of the country.

3. How do I qualify to adopt a wild horse or burro?

An individual must be at least 18 years of age, have no convictions for inhumane treatment of animals, and have adequate facilities and means of transportation to provide humane care and proper treatment for a wild horse or burro.

4. How can my child obtain a wild horse or burro?

Parents or legal guardians may adopt a wild horse or burro and allow their children to assist in caring for and training the animal. Many young people use these animals for 4-H projects.

5. What requirements must be met for transporting wild horses and burros?

Adopters must provide their own vehicles or make private arrangements for vehicles to transport their animals from the adoption center to their homes. Vehicles may include horse trailers and commercial livestock trailers, as long as they meet the following

minimum standards: (1) sturdy floors, walls, and a smooth interior free from protrusions; (2) ample head room; (3) partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex; (4) floors covered with nonskid material; and (5) adequate ventilation. For safety reasons, no drop ramp tailgates on horse trailers are allowed for loading wild horses and burros. All vehicles will be inspected by the adoption center manager prior to loading animals.

Animals may be transported for a maximum of 24 continuous hours. After each 24 hours of travel, animals must be off-loaded into a corral for watering, feeding, and resting for a minimum of 5 hours unless BLM has approved other arrangements.

6. What must a wild horse or burro be fed?

Nutritional requirements vary with an animal's age, physiological condition, and level of work. About 2 pounds of good quality hay with at least 10 percent protein content per 100 pounds of body weight is required daily by an idle adult horse (about 20 pounds per day) or burro (about 5 to 8 pounds per day). Young, growing animals, pregnant or lactating mares or jennies, and working animals need more nutrients than idle animals. Horses and burros stressed by cold weather also may need more food.

Trace mineral salt and fresh water must be available to the animal at all times. A mature animal requires about 12 to 15 gallons of water daily. Feed and water containers must have rounded corners and edges and not pose a hazard for the animal.

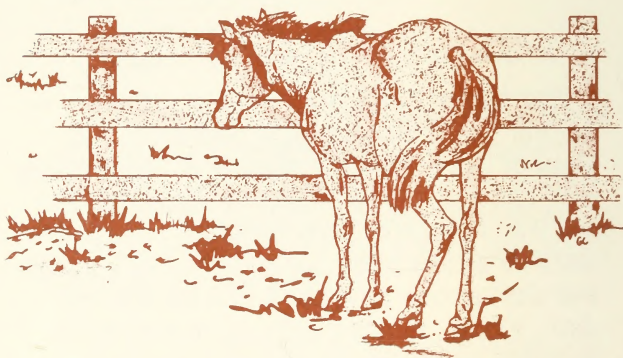
7. What are considered adequate facilities for a wild horse and burro?

Both a shelter and corral or enclosed pasture are necessary to maintain a wild horse or burro. At a minimum for moderate

climates, a windbreak or simple shelter consisting of a three-sided structure with a shed-type roof is adequate if the open side faces away from the direction of prevailing wind. In the Northeast, Great Lakes States, and Northern Plains States, the shelter must be a fully enclosed barn or similar structure with at least 144 square feet available per horse or burro.

A box stall at least 144 square feet in size is acceptable if it is well-drained, well-ventilated, and cleaned regularly, and the animal is given daily exercise.

The shelter must be free from protrusions (e.g., bolts, hinges, etc., projecting into the facility) or other objects that would pose a safety hazard for the animal.



Until they are gentled, adopted horses and burros should be maintained in corrals. A minimum of 400 square feet of corral space is required for each animal maintained in a corral. The fencing must be at least 6 feet high for horses and 5 feet high for burros. Animals between 6 and 18 months of age may be maintained in corrals with fencing a minimum of 4½ feet in height. Fencing must consist of rounded pipes, poles, wooden planks, or similar materials that do not pose a hazard to the animals. Small-mesh woven wire fencing with a board along the top is acceptable. Once gentled, the animals may be maintained in pastures.

Large-mesh woven or barbed wire is dangerous for wild horses and burros and is not acceptable under any circumstances.



8. How many wild horses and burros may I adopt?

You may adopt as many as four animals within a 12-month period. Larger numbers may be adopted only with the specific approval of the BLM official responsible for the program in your area. If more than four wild horses and burros are to be maintained at one location, you must obtain the same approval.

9. Where are the adoption centers located?

Wild horse and burro adoption centers are located across the Nation, although most are found in the West. A current list of the locations where these animals may be adopted follows.

BLM also sets up temporary "satellite" adoption centers in sections of the country not conveniently served by permanent centers. If you have applied to adopt a wild horse or burro and a satellite is being planned near your home, you will be contacted and offered the opportunity to adopt at that time. You also may write the BLM office that serves your area (see list at the end of this brochure) for more information about possible satellites near you.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WILD HORSE AND BURRO
ADOPTION CENTERS

FACILITIES OPEN
YEAR-ROUND

ANIMALS
AVAILABLE

Kingman, Arizona	Burros
Susanville, California	Horses and Burros
Canon City, Colorado	Horses
Palomino Valley, Nevada	Horses and Burros
Lewisberry, Pennsylvania	Horses and Burros
Cross Plains, Tennessee	Horses and Burros
Liberty Hill, Texas	Horses and Burros
Rock Springs, Wyoming	Horses

FACILITIES OPEN AS ANIMALS
BECOME AVAILABLE

Ridgecrest, California	Burros
Boise, Idaho	Horses
Pryor Mountains, Montana	Horses
Burns, Oregon	Horses
Delta, Utah	Horses



10. How do I apply to adopt a wild horse or burro?

You must complete the attached adoption application form listing the number of animals you want and describing the kind of feed, transportation, and facilities you have available. Instructions for completing the application are found on the reverse side of the form.

Your application will be reviewed to determine whether you meet the adoption qualifications (see answers to Questions 3 through 7). If your application is disapproved, you will be sent a letter explaining why. If your application is approved, you will be notified when animals are available in your area.

11. Will I be assigned an animal at the adoption center?

No. You may choose your own animal from those available on a first come, first serve basis.

12. Are all of the animals healthy?

Every excess wild horse or burro offered for adoption has been examined to ensure its soundness and good health, and to determine its age and sex. Any necessary medical treatment (including tests for communicable diseases, immunizations, and worming) has been administered. A record of the animal's medical history is provided to the adopter to assist in establishing a good health care program with a veterinarian.

Some wild horses and burros may be malnourished or have difficulty adjusting to a change in climate. Your veterinarian can help you overcome such problems.

13. May someone else pick up my animals for me, or may I pick up animals for other people?

Your power of attorney may be assigned to another individual for the purpose of selecting, adopting, and transporting animals. You must receive specific approval of the adoption arrangements in advance from the Wild Horse and Burro Specialist responsible for your State (see list of BLM Offices at the end of this brochure). Such arrangements may be approved for applicants who wish to minimize their own transportation and travel costs and whose locations are not readily accessible to adoption centers.

14. May two or more adopters share a truck or trailer to transport their animals?

Yes. Some adopters cut transportation expenses by sharing a truck or trailer. The vehicle, however, must meet the requirements discussed earlier.

15. Will the animal be mine after I pick it up?

Not immediately. You will apply for title to your adopted animal at the time you sign your adoption agreement. One year later, you will be asked to submit a statement from a veterinarian, extension agent, local humane official, or other qualified individual certifying that the animal has received proper care and maintenance. If your application is approved by BLM, a Certificate of Title will be issued, and the animal will be legally yours. You may obtain title to as many as four animals per year.

16. If I adopt a mare or jenny carrying a foal, is the foal mine?

Yes. Any foal born to a mare or jenny after adoption would belong to the adopter.

17. Are there any restrictions on use of an adopted animal once it's in my care?

Until you have title to the animal, it cannot be used for any commercial purpose relating to its characteristics of wildness. For instance, the animal cannot be used for bucking stock or events such as wild horse races. Otherwise, you may train the animal for riding, roping, working, showing, or any other personal use, such as keeping it as a pet. When you pick up the animal, you will be required to sign a contract agreeing to take proper care of it and to abide by the restrictions on its use.



18. Does the Government check up on the animal after it reaches its new home?

BLM, or someone acting on the Agency's behalf, may check to make sure it is being treated well and that its "foster parents" are living up to the conditions of the contract.

Compliance checks will be made on all large-scale adoptions (more than 24 animals) and in response to all reports of neglect, mistreatment, or prohibited use of any untitled adopted animal.

19. What should I do if for some reason I am no longer willing or able to care for my adopted animal?

If you have not yet received title to the animal, contact the Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at the BLM office responsible for the State in which you live (see list of BLM Offices in the back of this brochure). The Wild Horse or Burro Specialist will help you locate another person who wishes to adopt the animal. That person must be approved for adoption just as you were. You may find another person to adopt the animal, but it may be transferred only with the permission of BLM.

20. What must I do if the adopted animal dies, escapes, or is stolen?

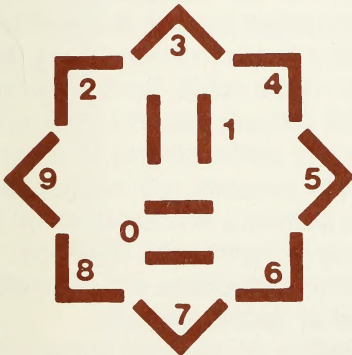
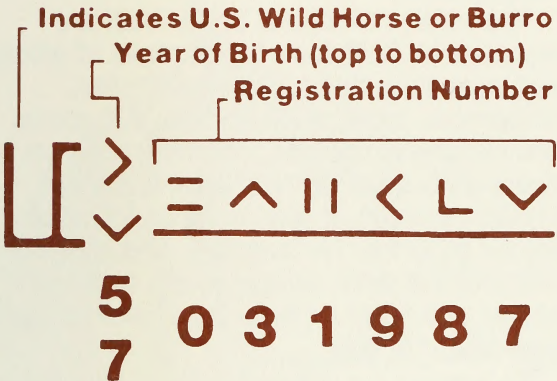
If the animal dies while it is still the property of the U.S. Government, you must notify in writing within 7 days the Wild Horse and Burro Specialist responsible for the State in which you live (see list of BLM Offices in the back of this brochure). You must include in the notification a statement signed by a licensed veterinarian attesting to the date, apparent cause of death, and method of carcass disposal. Carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with State sanitation laws; however, they cannot be sold for any purpose. If the circumstances surrounding the death are suspect, an investigation will be made.

If an animal escapes or is stolen, you must notify BLM and make a diligent effort to recover it. When adopted animals are reported to be missing or stolen, BLM will conduct an investigation. Adopters are responsible, as provided by State law, for any personal injury, property damage, or death caused by animals in their care, and for costs of recapture of animals that escape or stray.

21. How can I identify an adopted wild horse or burro?

Each animal adopted after April 1978 has been individually identified by alpha angle symbols applied by a freeze mark on the left side of its neck. The mark identifies the animal as an official wild horse or burro. The symbols include the animal's birth year and identification number. The following is an example of a freeze mark:

Read each angle to determine
freeze mark number.



Key to Alpha Angle Symbol

Why an Adoption Program for Wild Horses and Burros?

The Adopt-A-Horse Program began in 1973 in the Pryor Mountains of Montana as a humane method for disposing of excess animals removed from the public lands. Because the animals are protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 and have almost no natural predators to limit their population growth, the number of wild horses and burros has steadily increased. The act requires BLM to manage and control wild horses and burros to "maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship" on the public lands.

The public rangelands in the West are managed by BLM for a broad range of values and uses, including recreation, timber, wilderness, mineral production, and scenic and cultural resources. The vegetation on these lands must protect watersheds and prevent erosion. It also provides a limited supply of forage for livestock, and habitat and food for deer, antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife, in addition to wild horses and burros.

To protect the vegetation from overgrazing and to maintain healthy animal herds, it is necessary to control population levels of all animals on the public lands. Livestock are managed through permits limiting the numbers of cattle, sheep, or other domestic animals by seasons and by areas of use. Wildlife numbers are managed by State fish and game departments. Similarly, wild horse and burro populations are controlled through removal of excess animals.

All healthy excess wild horses and burros removed from the public lands for which an adoption demand by qualified individuals exists are made available for private maintenance through the Adopt-A-Horse Program. Since 1973 more than 65,000

animals have been placed in foster homes across America.

Appropriate numbers of wild horses and burros are being retained on the public lands in balance with their environment. These animals will continue to symbolize the historic and pioneer spirit of the West and to enrich the lives of the American people, as provided by Congress in the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act.



Number of animals requested for adoption:

Horses

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Burros

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Please answer the following questions:

1. Have you read and do you understand the **PROHIBITED ACTS** and the **TERMS OF ADOPTION** on the reverse side? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Describe the facilities that will be provided to the animals you have requested.
 - a. Shelter size, height, and construction materials:
 - b. Corral size, fence height and construction materials:
 - c. Pasture size:
 - d. Feed and water:

3. Will more than four untitled wild horses or burros be kept at the location where you will keep the animals requested in this

APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION OF WILD HORSE(S) OR BURRO(S)

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 1004-0042
Expires: January 31, 1988

APPLICANTS LAST NAME																		FIRST										M.I.									
STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX																																					
CITY																		STATE				ZIP CODE															
DRIVERS LICENSE NO.																																					
STATE																																					
BIRTH DATE																																					
Mo														Day														Yr									
HOME PHONE (include area code)																																					
BUSINESS PHONE (include area code)																																					

For further information, contact the BLM office serving your State.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Alaska:
701 C Street
Box 13
Anchorage, Alaska
99513
(907) 271-5069

Arizona:
2015 West Deer
Valley Road
Phoenix, Arizona
85027
(602) 863-4464

California:
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way,
Room E-2841
Sacramento,
California 95825
(916) 978-4725

Colorado:
2850 Youngfield
Lakewood, Colorado
80215
(303) 236-1748

States East of the
Mississippi
River, Plus Iowa,
Minnesota,
Missouri, Arkansas,
and Louisiana:
Eastern States Office
350 South Pickett
Street
Alexandria, Virginia
22304
(703) 274-0231

Idaho:
3380 Americana
Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 334-1425

Montana, North
Dakota, and South
Dakota:
222 North 32nd Street
Post Office Box 36800
Billings, Montana
59107
(406) 657-6656

Nevada:
Palomino Valley Wild
Horse and Burro
Adoption Center
Post Office Box 3270
Sparks, Nevada 89432
(702) 673-1150

New Mexico, Kansas,
Oklahoma, and Texas:
Joseph M. Montoya
Federal Building
South Federal Place
Post Office Box 1449
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501-1449
(505) 988-6231

Oregon and
Washington:
Burns District Office
74 South Alvord Street
Burns, Oregon 97720
(503) 573-5241

Utah:
324 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah
84111-2303
(801) 524-3119

Wyoming and
Nebraska:
2515 Warren Avenue
Post Office Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming
82003
(307) 772-2078

September 1986

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Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

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